



Kingston Conservation Advisory Council
Monthly Meeting, City Hall Conference Room 1
Minutes

Date: December 9, 2013 6:30pm

Call to Order: __6:35__ pm

Board Members

Julie Noble (Chair)
Diane Bonavita
Emilie Hauser
Kevin McEvoy
Casey Schwarz
Gregg Swanzy

Guests:

Jennifer Schwartz-Berky
Nathaniel Schwartz Berky

- I. Establish meeting secretary:** Upon motion made by Julie and seconded by Diane, Kevin McEvoy was unanimously chosen to be CAC Secretary until further notice.
- II. Welcome Guests and Public Comment :** No comments; Jennifer & Nathaniel Schwartz Berky
- III. Modifications to the Agenda:** A Discussion on meeting length resulted in an informal consensus without motion or resolution to establish as a goal the intent to end meetings by 830 PM.
- IV. Review and Approval Prior Minutes:** After brief discussion and minor changes to the draft August 2013 minutes, motion was made by Casey and seconded by Diane to approve the August 1, 2013 Meeting Minutes which resolution passed unanimously. After review, comment and minor changes to the draft minutes for November 2013 motion was made by Diane and seconded by Gregg to approve the November 7, 2013 Meeting Minutes which resolution passed unanimously.
- V. Special Presentations**
6:40-7:00pm Urban Agriculture Committee: Jennifer Schwartz-Berky

Jennifer Schwartz-Berky conducted a project update including a review of interview responses and discussion of visioning statement with regards to the zoning draft language and her report on Kingston urban agriculture. The Pace conference on Friday Dec 6, was discussed with reference made to focus of the presentation on City of Boston, Mass. Urban Agriculture Article 89 intended “to establish zoning regulations for the operation of Urban Agriculture activities and to provide standards for the siting, design, maintenance and modification of Urban Agriculture activities that address public safety, and minimize impacts on residents and historic resources in the City of Boston” and with reference to focus Newburgh NY which presentation included a discussion of prior initiatives such as community food assessment and language supporting urban agriculture in the Newburgh comprehensive plan and included the steps necessary to establish urban agriculture successfully included taking an inventory, building community support, identifying partners, identifying barriers and finally drafting an urban agriculture plan which could include an urban agriculture center, helping build capacity for community groups to engage in creating community gardens and urban farms, land bank acquisition, partnership strategy and encouragement to adopt local policies and codes. Jennifer indicated that she spoke with Majora Carter founder of

Sustainable South Bronx at the Pace Conference. A discussion concerning CAC board member interviews by Jennifer on Kingston Urban Agriculture needs indicated a need for a funded mandate for urban agriculture as a common theme together with difficulties CAC has with small or no budget; as well as the need for vision statement for urban agriculture in Kingston and a discussion concerning the need to include urban agriculture in the forthcoming Kingston Comprehensive Plan. Jennifer cited examples from other locations including:

- a. An example from Burlington, VT, a city very much like Kingston: "We envision a city where everyone who wants to grow or raise their own food has the space, information, and support to do so safely, responsibly, and in solidarity with their neighbors and the greater community. We envision an urban agriculture system that integrates with local and regional systems for a food system that is place based, sustainable, resilient, socially just, and secure."
- b. An example from International Development (Serilingampally, Hyderabad): "Our vision is to contribute to the reduction of urban poverty and food insecurity through sustainable urban and peri-urban agriculture (UPA) and to stimulate participatory and gender-inclusive governance for the municipality of Serilingampally, Hyderabad."
- c. An example of a Comprehensive Plan vision statement with strong focus on Urban Ag, from Somerville, MA, (no specific urban ag wording, but valuable example for Kingston Comp plan): "Build a sustainable future through strong environmental leadership, balanced transportation modes, engaging recreational and community spaces, exceptional schools and educational opportunities, improved community health, varied and affordable housing options, and effective stewardship of our natural resources."
- d. An example from the Urban Ag Association in British Columbia, Canada: "To be a hub for collaborative work among people running projects related to the development of a diverse and reliable local food supply for the South Okanagan/Similkameen area."

Jennifer continued the presentation with a discussion of the possibility of creating a Food Policy Council and liaison, which could be the CAC, before continuing the CAC interview process by elaborating briefly on the purpose of a Visioning Statement (as opposed to mission statement for implementation). CAC members provided their vision for urban agriculture by means of keywords which included Public Health, food desert, local, food security, education, gardening, native species, pollinators, connections to the land, community gardens, implementation framework thru zoning, natural & built environment, energy and cost savings thru local providers, jobs, awareness, stormwater runoff control; community involvement, playspace, learning, nutrition, integrated approach, inclusive, and generational change.

The presentation concluded with a Comprehensive Plan inclusion strategy discussion with the urban agriculture committee to convey the Urban Agriculture Report directly to Mayor, Common Council, Planning Dept, and Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee. Jennifer indicated a draft report should be available later in December and a presentation of the completed plan tentatively scheduled in January, 2014.

No motions were made and no resolutions presented after the presentation.

VI. Old Business

- a. Hudson Landing Promenade project review, Recommendations
Emilie's draft reviewed; Gregg suggested that CAC is not looking at the sustainability of the promenade itself which would entail engineering aspects out of CAC scope but at the river and area environment and ecosystem resulting from the promenade with regards to SLR, flooding, stormwater, erosion sediment on river and sub-aquatic vegetation, with green infrastructure to be a consideration. Also CAC should make suggestions rather than recommendations regarding sediment and pollutants coming off steep slopes. Kevin discussed Heritage Area Commission review of policies which is limited in scope to specific LWRP policies with regards to Coastal Assessment; Action Item: Emilie to circulate a revised draft;
- b. Natural Resources Inventory, Open Space Summary for Comprehensive Plan: Update, Next steps;
Emilie's preliminary review of Open Space & Natural Resources for the City of Kingston dated 12-3-13 reviewed; Jennifer Schwartz has provided some input. Julie and Gregg confirmed that the Comprehensive

Plan Steering Committee has received the draft and maps from Sue Cahill; Turner Miller is doing SLR task force in Stony Point with Hudson River Estuary funding from DEC apparently without connecting with Kingston Tidal Waterfront Task Force; Action Item: Emilie and Kevin will confer and review with Jennifer Schwartz regarding NRI and Open Space Inventory (SEE "e" and "g" below for further action items)

- c. 2014 City Budget
Julie provided a CAC budget line item update indicating that a \$500 Budget for CAC was approved by Common Council in the planning office budget line (#; A18020.5472); Scenic Hudson reimbursement was received for website hosting
- d. UC Environmental Management Council Liaison
There is still a vacancy. Action Item: Emilie to attend EMC January 2014 meeting
- e. Comprehensive Plan: Plan Visioning report;
Visioning document missing appendix; Action item: Write a letter to or otherwise contact Suzanne Cahill to discuss the comprehensive planning process, the missing community groups appendix from the October 9 Visioning Document (available elsewhere on the Kingston 2025 website but not linked) and failure to receive notices concerning comprehensive plan updates; Action item: Julie to set up meeting with planning regarding various aspects of the comp plan process possibly Jan 18-19
- f. Kingston Tidal Waterfront Task Force
Emilie discussed with Jennifer Kingston Tidal Waterfront Task Force next steps with task force meeting scheduled for January 14, 2014.
- g. Discussion: NYS GMU Section 239-y
Next steps on the NRI mapping and open space inventory could show attributes of properties as the first step towards becoming a conservation board under Section 239-y; 2. Kevin recited portions of Section 239-y included below in its entirety. Brief discussion on NRI aspects and how historic resources fit in. Gregg mentioned OPRHP grant possibility to update resource lists that Kevin has been working on. Action item: Gregg & Emilie to follow up with GIS shapefile review.

N.Y. GMU. LAW § 239-y: Designation of council as conservation board

1. As used in this section, the following words and phrases shall have the following meanings:

- a. "Open area". Any area characterized by natural scenic beauty or, whose existing openness, natural condition or present state of use, if preserved, would enhance the present or potential value of abutting or surrounding development or would establish a desirable pattern of development or would offer substantial conformance with the planning objectives of the municipality or would maintain or enhance the conservation of natural or scenic resources.
- b. "Conservation open areas inventory". An inventory of open areas within the municipality with each such area identified, described and listed according to priority of acquisition or preservation.
- c. "Conservation open areas map". A map or maps identifying open areas within the municipality which are earmarked for preservation, including but not limited to open areas that are required to be set aside out of subdivision plats, publicly owned open areas, open areas preserved by non-public organizations and open areas having conservation, historical or scenic significance.
- d. "Open space index". The conservation open areas inventory and conservation open areas map after acceptance and approval by the local

legislative body.

2. The local legislative body of any city, town or village, which has created a conservation advisory council may, by resolution, redesignate such council as a conservation board provided such council has prepared and submitted to the local legislative body the conservation open area inventory and map which are accepted and approved by the local legislative body as the open space index of the municipality.

3. General powers and duties of conservation boards. To further assist a city, town or village in the development of sound open area planning and assure preservation of natural and scenic resources on the local level, a conservation board shall:

a. Review each application received by the local legislative body or by the building department, zoning board, planning board, board of appeals or other administrative body, which seeks approval for the use or development of any open area listed in the open space index. The conservation board shall submit a written report to the referral body within forty-five days of receipt of such application. Such report shall evaluate the proposed use or development of the open area in terms of the open area planning objectives of the municipality and shall include the effect of such use or development on the open space index. The report shall make recommendations as to the most appropriate use or development of the open area and may include preferable alternative use proposals consistent with open areas conservation. A copy of every report shall be filed with the legislative body;

b. Make available for public inspection at the office of the conservation board copies of all such reports of the conservation board;

c. Notify the department of environmental conservation of its creation within thirty days of the resolution of the legislative body;

d. Perform any duties assigned to it by resolution of the legislative body.

4. In addition to the foregoing a conservation board may:

a. Exercise any of the functions and responsibilities heretofore granted to conservation advisory councils;

b. Request the assistance of the department of environmental conservation in the preparation of any report.

VII. New Business

Slate of members to fill vacancies: Discussion regarding possible candidates resulted in no motions made and no resolutions presented.

VIII. Adjournment: __9:07____pm

Upon motion made by Casey and seconded by Diane, the meeting was adjourned at 9:07 PM.

Next meeting: Thursday, January 2, 2014